

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 02767 120715Z

21

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SNM-02 DEAE-00 SY-03 SCS-03 SCA-01

JUSE-00 DRC-01 /098 W

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R 120500Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3610

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 2767

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, PINT, TU

SUBJ: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SENDS AMNESTY BILL TO SENATE

REF ANKARA 2261

1. ON APRIL 10, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PASSED AND SENT TO THE SENATE THE LONG AWAITED GENERAL AMNESTY BILL, WHICH HAS BECOME A MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUE BETWEEN THE COALITION GOVT AND THE OPPOSITION PARTIES. THE ASSEMBLY APPROVED THE BILL BY A 207-185 MARGIN, REFLECTING A LARGE NUMBER OF DEPUTIES WHO ABSTAINED BY NOT ATTENDING THE SESSION.

2. AS REPORTED REFTEL, THE OPPOSITION PARTIES OBJECT TO AMNESTY FOR PERSONS CONVICTED OF SPREADING COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA UNDER ARTICLES 141 AND 142 OF TURKISH CRIMINAL CODE. (ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THIS VIEW IS SHARED BY DISSIDENT MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP), AND 17 OF PARTY'S 48 DEPUTIES WERE ABSENT FROM THE VOTING, DESPITE THE NSP'S COMMITMENT AS A COALITION PARTNER TO SUPPORT THE LEGISLATION.)

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3. ACCORDING TO APRIL 11 TERCUMAN, OPPOSITION JUSTICE PARTY

LEADER SULEYMAN DEMIREL, WHOSE PARTY HOLDS THE LARGEST BLOC OF VOTES IN THE SENATE, SAID THE BILL WOULD NOT BE FILIBUSTERED IN THE SENATE, BUT WOULD PASS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, PERHAPS IN ONE DAY, BUT WITH ONE MAJOR CHANGE: NO AMNESTY FOR OFFENSES UNDER ARTICLES 141 AND 142.

4. COH*,5: ACCORDING TO USUAL PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES, IF THE SENATE VERSION EXCLUDES THE OFFENSES IN QUESTION, THE BILL WILL BE REFERRED TO A COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF AN EQUAL NUMBER OF DELEGATES FROM BOTH HOUSES FOR DRAFTING OF A COMPROMISE BILL. THIS MAY FURTHER DELAY, BUT CANNOT PREVENT PASSAGE OF THE LEGISLATION. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL EVENTUALLY MAKE THE FINAL DECISION ON WHICH VERSION OF THE BILL TO PASS.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

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